

February 20, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

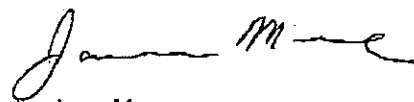
This letter is to support the STRIDE program and to encourage that it not be cut from our state budget. This program is an essential piece in contributing to our state's inmate's success and thus, to the quality of our state's population as a whole. I can speak for this program because I am a product of it's many services that are provided to fathers who have been in the prison system.

STRIDE has helped me in many ways. Previous to my involvement in this program, I didn't have the skills or the confidence to move forward with my life. I was stuck in the vicious cycle that our system creates, going in and out of jail and getting in trouble with the law time after time. While I was in jail, I learned about the STRIDE program and they motivated me to strive to succeed and become a contributing member of society. They gave me the opportunity to be a better father to my son, to build a long-lasting relationship, and to have a much more positive influence in his life. I could not do any of this without the resources they provided to get me on my feet, once in the outside world. I was provided the tools like an outfit, backpack, notebook, and resumes to go out on my own and do the footwork to obtain a job. One thing they did not do was to enable me to be reliant on them to get what I wanted. Instead, they gave me the direction, support and tools I needed for me to be self-sufficient towards reaching my goals.

Now that I have been out of jail for 4 years, I can still turn to the STRIDE program for support. The staff is always available when I need a professional opinion and a personal touch to help me weigh out my options when decision-making. They have helped me to revise and update my resume in order to further myself in the cooking business. They are there to lend a listening and supportive ear when I need to discuss my recovery, issues with my son, or anything else on my mind. The STRIDE staff has also been a reliable reference on my resume and when I was going to court to obtain joint custody of my son. In all areas, they continue to give me the confidence I need to go for my goals.

In conclusion, the STRIDE program provides a variety of resources that are essential for inmate's success once they enter back into society. This is a solid, beneficial program for many and it should not be cut from the state budget. It is a necessary part of an inmate's release from jail and it helps to limit or stop altogether the "revolving door" that the jail system has created. STRIDE has made a large, extremely positive impact on many lives, including mine. It has, and will continue to help make Connecticut, as a whole, a better place to live.

Sincerely,



Jamison Moore